

From: Craig Bellcurren
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/24/02 8:51am
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

I understand that the public are able to comment on the Microsoft case using this address. I would like to briefly summarise my opinions of Microsoft.

My name is Craig Bellcurren, I am a self-employed consultant and programmer for government bodies through-out the south-west of the United Kingdom.

I have been using computers for a long time. My mother bought me one for my third birthday, within a couple of weeks I was already learning the programming language, BASIC. I grew up with computers, some may say that my personality reflects this in many ways. Having grown up with the things, I've been able to see the evolution. I've seen them go from technical toys to productive solutions.

Microsoft have been around for a long time. I was aware of PCs and the variants of DOS running on them. I was still stuck in the land of Commodore and BBC Micro though. When Commodore died, it was time to look to a new platform. I used PCs. I used various versions of Unix available to me, I used DOS, and basically it was still a time when computers were only for techies. Then Windows 3.0 came along, soon followed by 3.1. The world was blown away. When Windows 95 came, packing more features and technology, and a better user interface, PCs were finally ready for general consumption.

With each new version of Windows, we see more features, more functionality. There are those that argue that by including all these features, Microsoft makes it harder for competitors to get their product to market. Personally, whenever I see a new feature in Windows, I wonder which lucky company is getting a license fee from Microsoft for inclusion of their technology. I see the integrated features bringing ease of use to the end user. Not everyone grew up with computers like I did, so I don't expect everyone else to find them easy to use. With all the efforts of Microsoft, end users finally are able to reach levels of productivity that were previously unimaginable. The best bit is that they do not need hours, days or months of training. They can teach themselves using the resources supplied with Windows.

Instead of targeting Microsoft for uncompetitive behaviour, I personally would like to thank Microsoft for making computers accessible to the general public.

Thankyou for your time,

Craig Bellcurren